



The District View

Web: www.district05.org Email: thedistrictview@gmail.com

Volume 2018, Issue 3

March 2018

District 05 Meeting in Menomonie, WI!
1412 6th Street E
Menomonie, WI 54751-3331
2nd Wed. of each month 6:45pm

If you know of an alcoholic willing to serve A.A. at the district level, this meeting is the place and time to do so! You can't keep what you have unless you give it away.

****We always are looking for your written experience, strength and hope experiences to add to future newsletters. Submissions can be made to The District View email at the top of this page.****

Step 3: Made a decision to turn our will and our life over to the care of God *as we understood Him.*

Tradition 3: The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Concept 3: As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A>A> General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."

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District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

February 14, 2018 6:45 PM

Menomonie Leisure Center, 1412 6th St E, Menomonie, WI 54751

Opening: Serenity Prayer

Introductions

Reports

● **Secretary** – Joe P.

- o Read last month's minute highlights.
- o Sent around contact sheet for GSRs (asked for additions, verification, and indication of GSR vs. Alt. GSR).
- o Note: Please try to get reports to the secretary before the meeting you're due to give a report. An emailed report with or without an attachment is acceptable.
- o Approved: Last month's minutes approved without objection.

● **Treasurer** – Sara D.

- o Report Period: 01/10/2018 - 02/14/2018
- o Checking Opening Balance: \$2,327.61
- o Group Contributions: \$73.00
- o Expenses: \$0.00
- o Checking Closing Balance: \$2,400.61
- o Approved: Report approved without objection.

The following reports were given and accepted:

● **District Committee Member (DCM)** – Marybeth S.

- o Marybeth submitted a written report, which she summarized in person:

This past month I had the opportunity to attend the WICYPAA Conference held in La Crosse but hosted by the Eau Claire WICYPAA Bid Committee. Incredible speakers, panels, and an amazing level of enthusiasm for this journey of recovery. Bravo to the Eau Claire Bid Committee.

Just received the DCM packet of material from the GSO and will be spending the next few days familiarizing myself with this box of goodies and sharing as much as possible.

Next up is the Area Delegate's Workshop on March 10 in Three Lakes. I have been notified that I am a member of the Treatment Committee. Discussion on GSO agenda items will take place at this meeting. GSRs: This is your opportunity to bring your group's voice on proposals that will be either discussed for voted on at the General Service Conference being held in New York in April. I have not yet received the background information on the agenda items but will be happy to share that information on any agenda item that is important to your group or to the various District Committees.

I was unable to attend the DCM Area conference call in January but Beth E. graciously attended in my place and will share her report. Thank you for allowing me to be of service. Marybeth S.

- o The 68th General Service Conference Committees Agenda Items packet will be distributed via email with the minutes.

● **Alternate DCM** – Beth E.

- o Participated in conference call with 9 out of 24 possible DCMs in Marybeth's absence.
- o Discussion about the importance of having a home group.
- o Discussion about districts with little participation at the Area level.

● **Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC) – Pat T.**

- o First meeting was cancelled due to flat tire.
- o About 5 people are interested in helping out with the committee. Looking for people to be of service.
- o First presentation this year at UW-Stout went well. The presentation was made to an adolescent substance abuse class.
- o Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: March 5th.)

● **Treatment Committee – Matt A.**

- o All 4 treatment center coordinators were elected for this year to bring presentations into the Fahrman Center, L.E. Phillips, Affinity House, and Arbor Place. They are doing well and speakers are going into treatment centers regularly.
- o There are more volunteers than speaking engagements. They are checking to make sure the speaker list is up to date.
- o L.E. Phillips coordinator (Colin P.) is working with them to help speakers meet their requirements (special orientation, etc.).
- o Affinity House wants minimum of 3 years sobriety for women speaking there. Matt is looking to set up a meeting to discuss whether they are being served well, based on their concerns.
- o A list of temporary AA contacts was passed around for updates.
- o The first offenders (underage drinking) program at UW-Eau Claire needs speakers, so either CPC or Treatment should help out. Agreement that this would fall under the purview of Treatment.
- o The requirement for speaking at a treatment center is 6 months of sobriety (except for Affinity House). New speakers go in with an experienced person the first time. See Matt to apply to be a speaker.
- o Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the second Monday of each month, 6:45 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: March 12th.)

● **Corrections – Ken P.**

- o Ken submitted an emailed report.
- o Met on Monday, February 5th.
- o Ten copies of Daily Reflections were requested for the Pepin County Jail. (Order approved.)
- o Ten copies of the Big Book are on hand for distribution, but no requests from facilities at this time.
- o Ten copies of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions were delivered to the Chippewa Falls prison.
- o Eau Claire County Jail has requested an additional meeting for women who are being housed in the Huber side, but do not have Huber privileges. (Jail is full, so some were moved.)
 - Contact is being made with current volunteers to see who would be willing to do so, plus more volunteers are needed.
 - A flier will be made up for distribution to try to attract more volunteers.
 - Discussion was held about Trempealeau jail meetings and whether we have volunteers, what the schedule is, and who the contact is. Ken is following up.
- o Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of February, May, August, and November, 7:00 PM, Club 12 (small building), Eau Claire. (Next meeting: May 7th.)

● **Special Accessibilities – Brett Z.**

- o Shane S. gave report for Brett.

- o Brett is looking for information about how to help in his new role and he may reach out to a prior representative for guidance.

- o Be of service! Regular meetings will occur at a time yet to be determined.

●**Public Information (PI)** – Doug H.

- o Myron M. gave report for Doug.

- o First meeting was January 17th, with 8 people present.

- o Voted in favor of project with homeless and women's shelters. Organization is underway.

- o Invoice received for Yellow Pages listing for Intergroup phone number. Comments are welcomed as to whether this should be continued, with note that phone books are in hotel rooms, which may be places where the alcoholic still suffers. (Working with Intergroup to make sure they are not duplicating efforts/payment.)

- o Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the third Wednesday of odd-numbered months, 6:30 PM, Alano Club, River Falls. (Next meeting: March 21st.)

●**Archives** – Stephen C.

- o Wants to find people who are willing to provide information about District AA history for archival purposes. Must be willing to be interviewed.

- o Please send by email digital records of any fliers or historical records to archives@district05.org.

- o Will accept any hard copies of information to be archived.

- o Noted that archives will transition to digital, since that is safer.

- o Open to suggestions about how to help in his archival efforts.

●**Intergroup** – Variable Representative

- o Bonnie B. gave report.

- o Intergroup Goals:

- Maintain presence (at District and other meetings).

- Put on two workshops, possibly one in conjunction with District. (Maybe after SNA Traditions workshop is done.) Possible topics: Drop the Rock, Concepts.

- Annual Unity Picnic in September.

- Working on keeping literature inventory (24 Big Books always available).

- Making website more mobile friendly.

- o Be of service! Regular meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: February 28th.)

District 05 Meeting Updates

- A Vision for You (Young Persons' Meeting): Started giving out medallions for 24 hours, 1-6 months, 9 months, and 12 months.

- Northside Group: Western WI Traveling Potluck, February 17th.

Old Business

- Tradition and Concept Presentation

- o Bryon B. presented on Tradition 1 and Concept 1.

- o Tradition 1 was read in short and long form.

- Unity is key, as Bryon noted that he tried to stay sober by himself for 7 years and it did not work.

- o Concept 1 was read.

- Noted that the upside down triangle structure of AA comes from this concept. Ultimate authority comes from the AA groups and trickles down to GSO.

- Discussion: How to Grow Interest in the Group Conscience
 - Kevin M. brought forward his group's trouble getting people to attend and participate in his group's conscience.
 - Discussion points brought up:
 - Home group members who actively sponsor people are more likely to bring sponsees to be of service at home groups.
 - Hold an event on the night of elections to spark interest.
 - Provide food.
 - Personally invite people to group conscience.
 - Get rid of belief that you have to be a home group member to attend group conscience meetings.
 - Educate about what a group conscience meeting is so that new people will know.
 - Adjourn meeting early and go straight into group conscience.
 - Encourage fellowship culture.
 - Encourage district participation.

New Business

- March Presentation
 - John B. will present on Tradition 2 and Concept 2.
- March Discussion
 - Shane S. and Beth E. will facilitate a discussion about workshops (how we are doing, topics, etc.).

Open Sharing

- Veterans Meeting in Chippewa Falls
 - Bryon B.: Director of Veterans Assistance at Klein Hall (for homeless or indigent veterans) wants a meeting run by veterans. Bryon met with him and gave explanation of what AA is and is not. Suggested to have a group of at least 3 people to start and run the meeting (not just veterans). This is in District 06, but we have been helpful there before. John B.B. gave history that the meeting was not working well and people did not really want AA.
 - Agreement that John B.B. and Bryon will discuss and see if things should be started up again.
 - Prisoner to be Released to Alma
 - Bryon B.: Received email from District 02 bridging the gap coordinator noting that a prisoner will be released on April 1st to Alma. Help is needed with bridging the gap from incarceration to new home.
 - Agreement that Corrections should work on that, so the request will be forwarded to Corrections Chair, Ken P.

Closing: Responsibility Statement

Next Meeting: March 14, 2018.

- Normally scheduled reports: None. (Delegate's Workshop preparation.)

Members' Views

...on STEP #3

"Our whole trouble had been the misuse of will power. We had tried to bombard our problems with it instead of attempting to bring it into agreement with God's intention for us."

---Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pg. 40

With typical alcoholic thinking, I thought this step impossible for me because I didn't have an understanding of God--mostly just confusion about God, coupled with a stubborn refusal to be seen as wrong about anything. I leaped at this apparent "out" in the second half of the sentence to dodge the call for an active decision in the first half. I needed guidance from A.A.'s collective wisdom to bring focus to this bedrock step.

As a child, I had been taught there was exactly one non-negotiable way to understand God. In A.A., I learned there are as many different understandings of the Higher Power as there are members. In *A New Pair of Glasses* Chuck C. said, "I like to use three words: Life, Good, God, which to me are synonymous words." With new-found open-mindedness spurred by A.A.'s near total lack of dogma, I have been able to make Step 3 the cornerstone of my daily program of recovery. Today I know there is no problem in life that I cannot make much worse by trying to conquer it by my own will. Step 3 has opened for me the way to contented sobriety.

An AA Member

...on TRADITION #3

"We just want to be sure that you get the same great chance for sobriety that we've had. So you're an A.A. member the minute you declare yourself."

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.139

In this essay on Tradition 3, Bill W. acknowledged the fear-based intolerance of many early groups that sought to protect A.A. from people who, in many respects, were very much like me. Looking back to those early times, it is remarkable how rapidly A.A. moved from restrictive membership regulations to the adoption of this tradition. *"Who dared to be judge, jury, and executioner of his own sick brother?"*

Relatively few of the A.A. newcomers I see today identify themselves as what used to be called 'pure alcoholics.' Many, in fact, admit that it was addiction to one or another illegal drug that brought them to seek help. For me, it was alcohol that brought me to my knees. When some are asked their 'drug of choice,' they may reply as I once did, "What've you got?" In many towns, A.A. is still the only source of recovery help.

If these folks stay in A.A. long enough, they come to understand that the disease we call alcoholism can apply to them, as well. Like all other newcomers, once a few cracks are made in their 'terminal uniqueness,' they begin to see how we are very much alike: Our 'what it was like' stories differ in the details, while our 'solution' stories are remarkably similar.

My Big Book tells me that "bottles were only a symbol" of my disease; I see syringes and pipes as likely symbols of the very same spiritual malady. As an alcoholic, I believe I cannot honestly claim sobriety while taking drugs; these folks also desire to stop drinking alcohol. We all seek to live in the A.A. solution.

An A.A. Member

Members' Views will share brief essays submitted by District05 A.A. members. Please send your views to thedistrictview@district05.org

A.A. Service View

The Principle of Rotation

Traditionally, rotation ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share. Many groups have alternates to each trusted servant who can step into the service positions if needed.

To step out of an A.A. office you love can be hard. If you have been doing a good job, if you honestly don't see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if your friends agree, it's especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth --- a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity.

Among other things, anonymity in the Fellowship means that we forgo personal prestige for any A.A. work we do to help alcoholics. And, in the spirit of Tradition Twelve, it ever reminds us “to place principles before personalities.”

Many outgoing service position holders find it rewarding to take time to share their experience with the incoming person. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no A.A. “status” at stake, we needn’t compete for titles or praise --- we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed.

---from the A.A. pamphlet, “The A.A. Group...where it all begins”

Monthly District 05 Events: District 05 Monthly GSR Meeting is held at 6:45pm, on the second Wednesday of each month, at the Leisure Center, 1412 Sixth St., Menomonie, WI. Any AA. members are welcome to attend.

District 05 Committees offer AA service opportunities for alcoholics who want to help carry the AA message. **Unless otherwise noted, committees meet at Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.**

Treatment Facilities Committee meets at 6:45pm on the 2nd Monday of every month.

Corrections Committee meets monthly at 7:45pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee meets at 6:30pm on the 1st Tuesday of every month.

Public Information Committee meets in the ODD months (Jan, Mar, May, etc.) at 6:30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at River Falls Alano club.

Chippewa Valley Intergroup meets at 6:00pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

** Care is taken to include all events. If your event is not listed we regret the error. To list your group's event please contact your GSR, any district officer, or the website editor before the 20th of the month preceding the event.

Calendar View

The District05 website, www.district05.org maintains the most up-to-date listing of A.A. events in our vicinity. If you click on an event on that calendar, any flyer that has been provided for the event will appear for you to print. Please check in there regularly to keep connected with local A.A. happenings. To have your event listed on the calendar, email to webmaster@district05.org

March 2018:

5th – C.P.C. Committee Meeting, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.

14th -- District 05 Monthly Meeting, 6:45pm. Menomonie Leisure Center

17th – 59th Annual Alano Club 12 Banquet, 4:30pm. Florian Gardens, 2340 Lorch Ave., Eau Claire.

See the event flyer at www.district05.org

18th – 59th Annual Alano Club 12 Brunch & Speaker, 10am. Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire. **See the event flyer at www.district05.org**

21st – P.I. Committee Meeting, 6:30pm. River Falls Alano, Hwy. 29 and County FF, River Falls.

28th -- Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.

April 2018:

2nd -- C.P.C. Committee Meeting, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.

7th -- 4th Step Workshop, 12:30-5:00pm, River Falls Alano, Hwy. 29 and County FF, River Falls.

11th -- District 05 Monthly Meeting, 6:45pm. Menomonie Leisure Center

14th -- Eleva Step Group Annual Travelling Potluck & Open Speaker Meeting, 3:30pm, Eleva Lutheran Church, 50533 S. 2nd St. Eleva, WI. **See the event flyer at www.district05.org**

25th -- Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.

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We are now working to build our database of subscribers. All G.S.R.'s and their alternates, district officeholders, and district trusted servants will receive the newsletter. We hope *The District View* soon will be available to at least one member of each A.A. group in the district. Please share this issue with fellow members via email, and we hope those who are able to do so will print a copy to share with A.A. members who do not have access to email.

If you wish to have your email address removed from our subscription list, simply email us with your request.

Your comments, suggestions and essay submissions are most welcome! Please send them by email to the same address, above.

Big Book

4th Step Inventory Workshop

When – Saturday April 7th

Time – 12:30pm to 5pm

Where – River Falls Alano Club

Based on the Big Book using Joe and Charlie 4th step worksheets.

Requirement – must have worked/completed Steps 1-2-3 with a sponsor.

Worksheets, Pen/pencil will be provided.

Bring your Big Book; Books will be available if you don't have one

Bring your own Snack/Beverage & Willingness!!

Questions? Call Andy W 651-206-0019 / Gary S 715-425-9973

